



## Maudie Donation

Carol Maudie donated a number of items that were her husband's, Bert, when he service in the millitary. The following display includes them:



In addition, she donated a copy of the following article about Bert:

# Korean War Vet battles new enemy

BY ANTONY KAMPS

5000 West staff writer

Hero.

The word gets tossed around a lot these days, some justified, some not so much. For one man the word might not do him justice. His name is Bert Maudie.

His story is one of bravery, mixed with a little crazy, on a cold winter's night in Korea.

Maudie was awarded the Army's Distinguished Service Cross for stopping an ambush attack by North Koreans. The self-described S.O.B. battles a new enemy now -- Parkinson's disease.

He grew up during the Great Depression as the youngest of 10 children in his family. His father died six days before Maudie's birth.

"After his father died, his four older brothers quit school and went to work in the coal mines," said Carol Maudie, Bert's wife. "They then went on to fight in World War II."

John, Steve, and Frank served in the Army, while Edward served in the Navy. Frank was killed in Normandy in June of 1944. This didn't deter Maudie. He enlisted in the Army straight out of high school in 1949.

"Everybody should have to do a minimum two years of service for your country," said Maudie. "Keep your nose clean, stay out of trouble and you'll learn respect."

Staying out of trouble wasn't in Maudie's genes. He didn't get into the kind of trouble involving the police, but he volunteered for everything, often putting himself in harm's way.

"I volunteered to go to Korea," said Maudie. "Instead they sent me to Germany. Finally I volunteered again and it was accepted."

Volunteering almost got Maudie a job no soldier would envy.

"I was told one day, 'Maudie, you're on land mine detail,'" said Maudie. "I got lucky on that one as I ended up not having to do that."

In Korea, on a cold January night in 1953, Maudie and his squad just returned

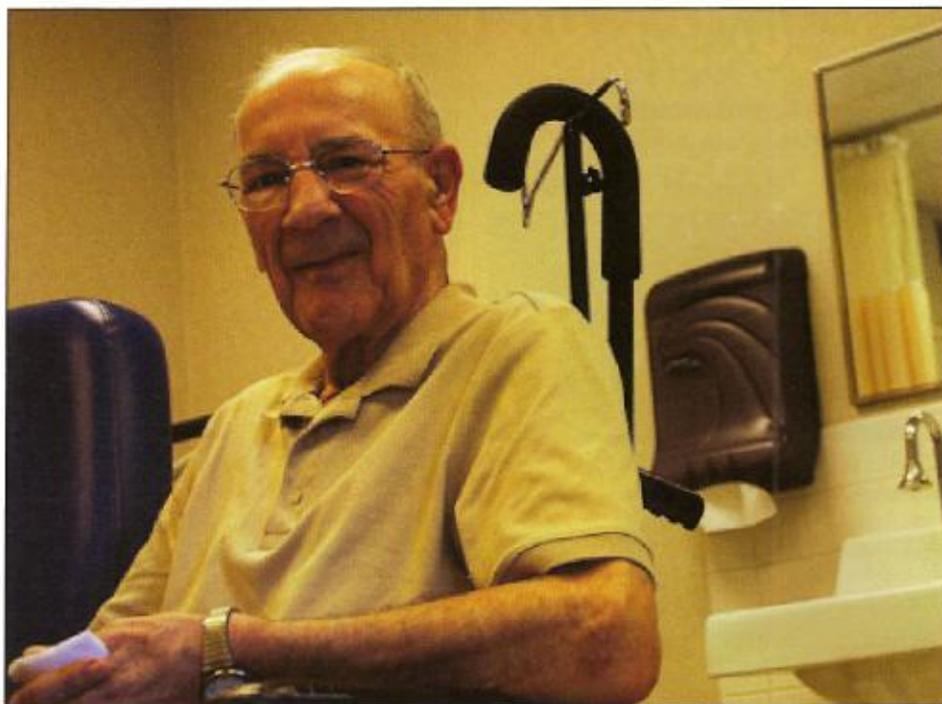


Photo by Antony Kamps

**Bert Maudie received the Army's Distinguished Service Cross for stopping an ambush attack by North Koreans in 1953, and now receives care at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center for Parkinson's disease.**

from a patrol, trying to warm up when the sneak assault began.

"Grenades started dropping down from the top of the bunker," he said.

He rushed out of the bunker and opened fire with his M1 Grand, killing four of the enemy. His weapon jammed, but Maudie, never hesitating charged the North Koreans with his bayonet fixed to his rifle. Thwarting attacks from the enemy, and literally dodging bullets, he single-handedly ended the attack with a jammed rifle and a few hand grenades, while yelling:

**"MAUDIE COMING THROUGH!"**

Maudie did all of this while still recovering from wounds he received from a previous mortar attack less than a month earlier. Those wounds opened up during his assault on the enemy. When explaining why he did what he did, Maudie simply states: "I'm crazy."

The Army's Distinguish Service Cross was awarded for his valor that night, but it is of little consequence to Maudie. His service was not for awards, but for a higher calling.

"Honor and respect," said Maudie.

What the North Koreans couldn't do that night in 1953, Parkinson's disease has, whittling away this great man. He's still there at times, remembering everything

you ask him, all with a big smile on his face.

While answering questions he sometimes slowly slips away, looking straight at you, going into great detail of a story, then slowly turning toward the window and just like that -- he's gone.

"It's the Parkinson's," says Carol. "It takes away your ability to focus."

She touches Maudie's hand; he turns back toward her and the dimming light burns bright once again. Every time Maudie drifts away Carol brings him back during our conversations. It's heartwarming, but at the same time heart-breaking.

Their story is one of love spanning almost 60 years. They met in May of 1954; three months later they were married.

The encounter with his wife was never even supposed to happen.

"I met her at a dance," said Maudie of how he met his wife at the Roof Ballroom in 1954.

"It was a blind date -- just not with her."

Don't be fooled by the exterior of Maudie. He may look like an old, frail man but shaking his hand is like putting

**Continued on Page 15  
See Maudie**



Courtesy photo

**Bert Maudie, picture taken at Gibbs Barracks, Frankfurt, Germany 1956.**

## Maudie

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your hand in a vise grip. A grip built over the years fixing things around his house and others too.

"He'd always be in the garage or basement fixing this or that," said Carol "Now those tools just sit unused because he can't do that stuff anymore."

Serving in the military continues in the Maudie family. His son, Frank, is a lieutenant colonel in the Army.

"He's going to retire soon having served almost 30 years," said Carol about her son Frank.

Maudie's smile grows bigger, giving an enthusiastic thumb up when asked how he feels about his son's accomplishments in the military.

Our conversation comes to a close, and Maudie opens up a little.

"I get nervous," said Maudie.

That's an interesting choice of words for a man who once described his younger self as one tough S.O.B.

"I'm retired from being an S.O.B.," said Maudie with a smile.

# Volunteer never stops

**BY BENJAMIN SLANE**  
5000 West staff writer

Rolls of laughter fill the hallway if you go down to the basement and head toward the credit union at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center.

Nick Habersetzer, a volunteer escort, is the source of all that laughter. He's sitting in the escort room waiting for patients' names to spit out from the printer. In the time waiting, he keeps the room of about 20 other escorts and VA staff on their toes.

"See Ben over there," he points to me. We met at the Newburg Fireman's Picnic last weekend while he was serving beer. "Ben says he met me this last weekend, but I don't remember; I must have had a lot to drink!"

The room erupts in laughter. Nick is 77-years-old and has been making this crowd laugh for the better part of 13 years at the VA Medical Center.

works part-time as the custodian at the Armed Forces Recruiting Center in West Bend.

Nick said he does all this stuff now because he worked third shift for Gehl Company and was never able to attend or support the groups he wanted to be a part of. So, when he retired in 2000, he started giving back.

In 1955, Nick joined the Army and was stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., as a cannon cocker with the 82nd Airborne Division. Imagine pushing a 155mm Howitzer out of an airplane. We can't either. It weighs nearly 13,000 pounds and at a time when the airborne concept was only 12-years-old, it had to go. Nick's unit was disbanded and he was left to be assigned at the "needs of the Army." His boat docked in Korea, July 4, 1957.

"I really enjoy the Vets," says Nick as he backs patient Lois O'Boyle into the elevator. She was a little under the weather, until, of course, Nick had her smiling and laughing away on the ride from the first floor to the ninth.

Rochelle Taylor works with Nick in the escort department.

"We just love Nick," said Rochelle. "Last year when he had his heart surgery we went to see him



Photo by Benjamin Slane

**Nick Habersetzer, a volunteer escort, tells jokes while sitting in the escort room waiting for his next assignment.**

He started his run here at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center in 2000. The wife of a good friend of his was admitted to the hospital and needed someone to push her around to appointments.

Perfect fit. And the rest is history.

But there is a lot more to it than that. Nick not only volunteers at the VA, he volunteers everywhere — his color guard unit, St. Mary's Church, and the Newburg Fire Department. He's also a member of the Allenton American Legion and Korean War Veterans in West Bend, and also

every day."

The escort staff visited Nick so much in the ICU the nursing staff had to ask that the visits be cut back because he had so much traffic going in and out of his room.

People all around Washington County and at the VAMC say great things about Nick and his motivation is everyone else.

"I admire the kids who join now that I see at the recruiting station," Nick said.

Well, Nick, here's to you, we admire you for all you have done.

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EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

On the morning of 28 January 1953 I was in the CP Bunker with Cpl MAUDIE reporting the results of an ambush patrol from which we had just been relieved. Rounds started dropping in our immediate area. All at once we heard bursts of automatic weapons and the crack of small arms fire. Cpl MAUDIE came out of the bunker and ran toward the assaulted position. Groups of screaming savage enemy came charging up the hill and into our trenches. They were throwing grenades and firing burp guns. Cpl MAUDIE, in the face of the direct enemy fire, immediately started firing his M-1 rifle at point blank range inflicting heavy casualties. He dropped four of them almost at his feet. When he had expended his ammunition, he charged them with his bayonet fixed. I saw him lunge at them again and again, rendering many of them casualties. Cpl MAUDIE single-handedly repelled the fierce attack of two squads of enemy. His aggressive actions and complete disregard for his own personal safety were an inspiration to us all. Observation was good and I was within 20 feet of him all the time.

*Robert A. Fowler*

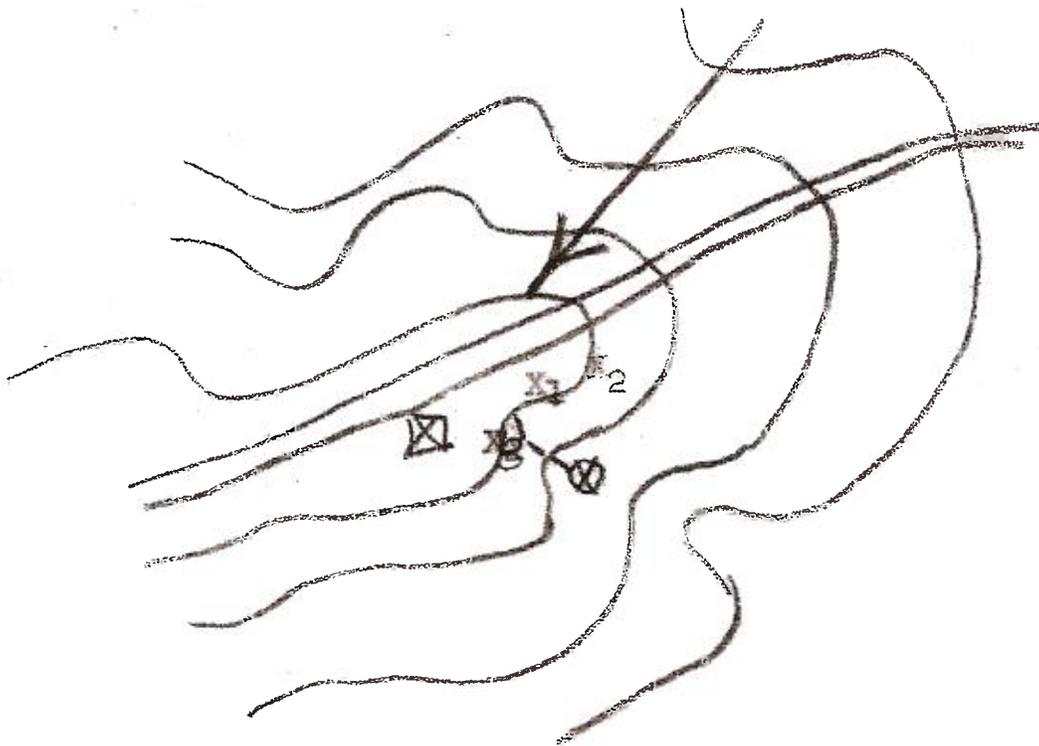
ROBERT A FOWLER  
M/Sgt, RA 12260971

Sworn and subscribed before me this 29th day of January 1953 at  
Sohui-ryong, Korea.

*Harold P Cook Jr*  
HAROLD P COOK JR  
1st Lt            Inf  
Adjutant

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-  TRENCH
-  FORWARD OBSERVER BUNKER
-  3d PLATOON CP BUNKER
-  PATH OF CPL MAUDIE
- X1 CPL MAUDIE
- X2 M/SGT FOWLER
- X3 SFC ROCKDESCHAL

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